

EARLY CHILDHOOD CREDENTIALS AND SYSTEMS OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION COMPARATIVE DATA FROM 5 STATES (ILLINOIS, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, OKLAHOMA)

The following information is being provided to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) as part of WestEd's Workforce Integration Project funded by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation.

1. Useful Websites

TEACH: MAKE A DIFFERENCE (USC Rossier School of Education)

- State-specific information about teacher education, professional preparation pathways, degree requirements, certification tests, etc., for every state in the country (<http://teach.com>)

ILLINOIS

- Illinois Licensure Requirements and Content Endorsement Requirements (http://www.isbe.net/licensure/requirements/endsmt_struct.pdf)
- Illinois Administrative Code: Standards for Endorsements in Early Childhood and Elementary Education (www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/26ark.pdf)

MASSACHUSETTS

- Department of Early Education and Care – Professional Qualification Certification Application (<http://www.mass.gov/edu/docs/eec/prof-development/eec-certificationapp.pdf>)
- Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care (<http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/departments-of-early-education-and-care>)

NEW JERSEY

- Preschool Through Grade 3 Standard Certificate Requirements (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license/endorsements/1013S.pdf>)
- State of New Jersey Department of Education – Licensure and Credentials (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license>)

NEW YORK

- Office of Teaching Initiatives – Certification (<http://eservices.nysed.gov/teach/certhelp/CertRequirementHelp.do>)

OKLAHOMA

- State Department of Education – Teacher Certification (<http://www.ok.gov/sde/teacher-certification>)

2. What kind of ECE credentials exist? What degrees are required? What are the age/grade spans?

STATE	4-YR-OLDS SERVED (%)	DEGREE REQUIRED	AGE/GRADE SPAN FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CREDENTIAL	AGE/GRADE SPAN FOR ELEMENTARY CREDENTIAL
IL	22	BA	CREDENTIAL: Professional Educator License with ECE Endorsement	Kindergarten-Grade 9
			AGE/GRADE SPAN: Birth-Grade 3	
MA	12	BA	CREDENTIAL: Professional Certification	Grades 1-6
			AGE/GRADE SPAN: Preschool – Grade 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infant-Toddler or Preschool Teacher ▪ Lead Infant-Toddler or Preschool Teacher ▪ Director I and Director II 	
NJ	20	BA	CREDENTIAL: Early Childhood Certification	Kindergarten-Grade 6
			AGE/GRADE SPAN: Preschool -Grade 3	
NY	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BA for Initial Certification ▪ MA for Professional Certification 	CREDENTIAL: Early Childhood Certification	Grades 1-6 (Childhood Education)
			AGE/GRADE SPAN: Birth-Grade 2 (Early Childhood)	
OK	56	<u>Option 1:</u> BA <u>Option 2:</u> BA in any area, 5 years Head Start teaching, current CDA <u>Option 3:</u> BA in Child Development or Family Relations with emphasis on birth-age 3 development	CREDENTIALS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early Childhood Certification ▪ 4-Year-Olds and Younger Certificate ▪ Certificate to Teach Infants, Toddlers, 3-Year-Olds 	Generalist/Middle Childhood (ages 7-12)
			AGE/GRADE SPAN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generalist/Early Childhood (ages 3-8) ▪ 4-Year-Olds and Younger (for teaching in public schools) ▪ Infants, Toddlers, 3-Year-Olds (standard teaching certificate) 	

3. How long have the programs been in place?

ILLINOIS – 2013

- ECE Certification has been in place since the 1990's
- In 2013, the State of Illinois revamped the entire system of teacher certification – including ECE Certification
- Moved from 60 Educator Certificates and Endorsements to 3 Licenses
 - Professional Educator License
 - Educator License with Stipulations
 - Substitute Teaching License

MASSACHUSETTS – 2006

- Current system has been in place since at least 2006 (unable to find information before that)
- Three levels of Early Education and Care Professional Certification
 - Infant-Toddler or Preschool Teacher
 - Lead Infant-Toddler or Preschool Teacher
 - Director I and Director II

NEW JERSEY – 2000

- Preschool teachers must have a 4-year degree and an ECE credential
- Preschool teachers in public schools have pay parity with K-5 teachers

NEW YORK – 2004

- Instituted EC certification (birth-grade 2)
- Replaced a pre-K–grade 6 certification

OKLAHOMA – 1998

- Education Reform and Funding Act
 - Moved preschool funding to the K-12 funding formula, effectively expanding public schooling to a P-12 system
 - Requires preschool teachers to hold a BA and EC certification regardless of setting (e.g., public schools, Head Start, community-based organizations)
 - Requires wage parity with school-age teachers
 - Serves all 4-year-olds regardless of income

4. How were incumbent teachers considered when the credential was initially instituted?

ILLINOIS

- Automatically converted existing *Type 04 Early Childhood Education Certifications* to *Professional Educator Licenses*

MASSACHUSETTS

- No information found

NEW JERSEY

- Established alternative paths for teachers with a BA who wanted a P-3 teaching certification
 - Requires 30 additional units at the BA level
 - Requires an MA with an additional 6 units
 - Both pathways include extensive fieldwork and even distribution of child development content and fieldwork

NEW YORK

- No information found

OKLAHOMA

- 1998 (when original legislation was passed)
 - Public school teachers with BA could add ECE certificate to their credential if they could pass the state EC exams
 - Head Start and community-based preschool teachers who had five years of preschool teaching experience and the previously-required EC certificate could receive the new credential for teaching children birth-age 4 by passing the state EC exams
- Currently
 - Teachers can have a BA in any area but they must also have five years of preschool classroom experience and pass the state subject and general education teaching exams

5. What are the degree and license requirements for an ECE credential to be a Lead/Head Teacher?

ILLINOIS <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ BA degree and completion of a state-approved teacher education program▪ Initial Certification (4 years); Standard Certification (5 years, renewable); Master Certification (10 years, renewable)
MASSACHUSETTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If BA degree is from a recognized educator preparation program, graduate receives Initial License (valid for 5 years)▪ If the BA degree is earned in another area, graduate receives a Preliminary Educators License (valid for 5 years), and must complete a post-bachelor's educator preparation program in order to receive the Initial License<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Regardless of degree, 12 credits in Early Childhood Education are required
NEW JERSEY <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Completion of a BA degree with a major in the liberal arts, sciences, or a minimum of 60 liberal arts credits (includes such areas as philosophy, history, literature, sociology, science, mathematics, or world language)▪ Completion of an ECE teacher preparation program that culminates in student teaching▪ Provisional Certificate awarded initially. After completion of the Provisional Teacher program (mentoring, classroom experience, etc.), candidate gets recommended for a Standard Certificate
NEW YORK <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ BA degree required, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 30 semester hours of General Core in Liberal Arts and Sciences; 30 semester hours of Content Core in Liberal Arts and Sciences; 21 semester hours of Pedagogical Core▪ Initial Certification (valid for 3 years); Professional Certification (requires a Master's Degree; continuously valid with completion of required professional development hours on a 5-year cycle)
OKLAHOMA <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ BA degree and completion of an accredited teacher certification program▪ Standard Certificate awarded (valid for 5 years)
ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Illinois: http://www.isbe.net/profprep/pdfs/alternate.pdf▪ Massachusetts: http://www.bostonteacherresidency.org/▪ New Jersey: http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license/CE.htm▪ New York: http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/rightpathway.html#three▪ Oklahoma: http://ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/AltPlacePacket.pdf

6. What clinical and/or student teaching requirements are required in order to attain the credential?

ILLINOIS

- 100 clock hours of pre-student teaching clinical experience
- 5 semester hours or 10 weeks of student teaching

MASSACHUSETTS

- 300 hours supervised practicum or equivalent, including 100 hours in preK–Kinder and 200 hours in grades 1-2
 - At least one setting must include children with disabilities
- Equivalencies include:
 - 36 months of experience with a High School Diploma or GED
 - 27 months of experience with a CDA or Montessori credential
 - 18 months of experience with an AA degree in ECE or a related field
 - 27 months of experience with an AA degree in an unrelated field
 - 9 months of experience with a BA degree or advanced degree in ECE or a related field
 - 18 months of experience with a BA degree or advanced degree in an unrelated field

NEW JERSEY

- Equivalent of 1 semester full-time experience in an early childhood education setting

NEW YORK

- 40 days college-supervised teaching or as an employed teacher within the range of grades and subject area of certificate
- Alternatively, at least 40 days of paid full-time teaching experience or two years of paid experience as a New York State licensed Teaching Assistant in the subject area and at the developmental/grade level appropriate to the certificate

OKLAHOMA

- Varies by requirements of each accredited teacher certification program

7. What tests are required to obtain the degree and/or credential in order to work as a head/lead teacher?

ILLINOIS

- Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS) Basic Skills Test
- ICTS Content Area Test prior to student teaching
- Assessment of Professional Teaching test (APT) – Birth to Grade 3

MASSACHUSETTS

- Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL)
 - General: Communication and Literacy Skills
 - Subject matter: Foundations of Reading
 - Subject matter: Early Childhood

NEW JERSEY

- Praxis II Subject Assessment/Specialty Area test(s)
- Exam in physiology, hygiene and substance abuse

NEW YORK

- New York State Teacher Certification Examinations' LAST (Liberal Arts & Sciences Test)
- Assessment of Teaching Skills-Written (ATS-W) – Birth-Grade 6
- Multi-subject Content Specialty Test

OKLAHOMA

- Basic skills test before student teaching
- Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET) – critical thinking and general education knowledge
- Oklahoma Subject Area Test (OSAT) in Early Childhood – subject matter knowledge
- Oklahoma Professional Teaching Exam (OPTE) – professional knowledge and skills

8. Who is in charge of teacher preparation approvals? (i.e., CTC equivalents)

ILLINOIS State Board of Education http://www.isbe.net/licensure/html/endorsement.htm
MASSACHUSETTS Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care http://www.mass.gov/edu/docs/eec/research-planning/state-planning/eec-strategic-plan.pdf
NEW JERSEY State Board of Examiners http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license/sbe2.htm
NEW YORK New York State Education Department – Office of Teaching Initiatives http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/
OKLAHOMA Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation http://www.ok.gov/octp/About_OCTP/index.html

NOTE: The structures in New Jersey and Oklahoma most closely resemble the CTC structure in California.

9. Are there program standards for the ECE teacher preparation programs?

NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS – EARLY CHILDHOOD GENERALIST STANDARDS (2012)

http://www.nbpts.org/sites/default/files/documents/certificates/NB-Standards/nbpts-certificate-ec-gen-standards_09.23.13.pdf

1. Using Knowledge of Child Development to Understand the Whole Child
2. Partnering with Families and Communities
3. Fostering Equity, Fairness, and Appreciation of Diversity
4. Knowing Subject Matter for Teaching Young Children
5. Assessing Children's Development and Learning
6. Managing the Environment for Development and Learning
7. Planning for Development and Learning
8. Implementing Instruction for Development and Learning
9. Reflecting on Teaching Young Children
10. Exemplifying Professionalism and Contributing to the Profession

ILLINOIS PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS (2012)

<http://www.iwu.edu/edstudies/teachers/2012-illinois-professional-teaching-standards.pdf>

1. Teaching Diverse Students
2. Content Area and Pedagogical Knowledge
3. Planning for Differentiated Instruction
4. Learning Environment
5. Instructional Delivery
6. Reading, Writing, and Oral Communication
7. Assessment
8. Collaborative Relationships
9. Professionalism, Leadership, and Advocacy

MASSACHUSETTS CORE COMPETENCIES (2010)

http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/prof_devel/core_comp_packet.pdf

1. Understanding the Growth and Development of Children and Youth
2. Guiding and Interacting with Children and Youth
3. Partnering with Families and Communities
4. Health, Safety, and Nutrition
5. Learning Environments and Implementing Curriculum
6. Observation, Assessment, and Documentation
7. Program Planning and Development
8. Professionalism and Leadership

NEW JERSEY PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS (2004)

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/profdev/profstand/standards.pdf>

1. Subject Matter Knowledge
2. Human Growth and Development
3. Diverse Learners
4. Instructional Planning and Strategies
5. Assessment
6. Learning Environment
7. Special Needs
8. Communication
9. Collaboration and Partnerships
10. Professional Development

NEW YORK CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE (3rd edition)

<http://www.earlychildhood.org/pdfs/corebody.pdf>

1. Child Growth and Development
2. Family and Community Relationships
3. Observation and Assessment
4. Environment and Curriculum
5. Health, Safety, and Nutrition
6. Professionalism and Leadership
7. Administration and Management

OKLAHOMA CORE COMPETENCIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTITIONERS (2008)

http://www.okdhs.org/NR/rdonlyres/4E5897A2-8FE9-424B-B863-DD5E8F1FA997/0/0891_OklahomaCoreCompetenciesforEarlyChildhoodPractitioners_occs_05012011.pdf

1. Child Growth and Development
2. Health, Safety and Nutrition
3. Child Observation and Assessment
4. Family and Community Partnerships
5. Learning Environments and Curriculum
6. Interactions with Children
7. Program Planning, Development and Evaluation
8. Professionalism and Leadership